

Warren Nott's Heroic Death Stirs Community

Milwaukie Review

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FRANTIC REVIVAL EFFORTS of firemen to save Warren Nott are graphically shown in the picture above. Chief Lillis is shown in the center rear applying artificial respiration while (from left to right) Captain Bernard Muffenbjer, Capt. Alfred Jones and Hoseman Forest Sandberg work with the resuscitator. Also helping is Cliff Walstrom who manned one of the rescue boats. In the background partially shown are Keith Burns and Jebby Davidson who pulled the father and son from the water. At the left is shown the scene of the tragedy, showing the path out through the ice by the rescue boats and the ladders with which rescue attempts were made.

An heroic Milwaukie Fireman gave his life Sunday afternoon in a desperate rescue of a father and son who had fallen through the ice on the north side of Kellogg Lake. 40 year old Warren Nott, father of two young daughters and active leader in the Fireman's Ambulance Service and other community affairs, sacrificed his chance of survival in the icy waters by releasing to the immersed father the ladder which would have kept him afloat.

An eye witness account of the tragic rescue follows:

At 1:30 Sunday afternoon two 13 year old lads from Eastmoreland, Mike Daley and Ward Westcott, were skating on the already rubbery ice of Kellogg Lake. Suddenly the ice gave way just off the Presbyterian Church tract and

Fireman Warren Nott Drowns Saving Father-Son in Kellogg Lake Skating Accident; Benefit Fund Gets Underway

young Daley plunged in about 100 feet off-shore. Young Westcott scrambled to safety on shore.

By chance, Monroe Sweetland, publisher of the Milwaukie Review, looked out of the window of his south-shore home and spied the lad in the water across the lake. He called the Milwaukie Fire Department, directing Assistant Chief Warren Nott to approach the lad by way of the church property off Lake Road.

Sweetland and two luncheon guests, Portland attorney C. Girard 'Jebby' Davidson and Keith Burns, a senior at Willamette Law School, dashed to the lake front to find Clarence Daley, father of the lad, shouting instructions and encouragement to his son across the icy expanse.

Frantic Father Also Breaks Ice

In spite of attempts to restrain him, Mr. Daley started across the lake on foot, but the sound of ice cracking under his weight made it clear he could never make it that way. Sweetland found a 4 foot toboggan-sled on the Alex Vines porch nearby and gave it to the desperate father, who slid across the ice on his stomach to within 20 feet of his son, when the ice gave way under him, and he was also immersed in the water with the sled buoying him.

Fireman Warren Nott and Dave Beeson had arrived in the meantime and were maneuvering the longest ladder (25 ft.) across the ice but it was not long enough to reach either father or son.

Davidson and Burns Break Channel in Ice

On the south shore, meanwhile, Davidson and Burns commandeered one of Mr. Vine's small dorys, and succeeded in getting it launched only after Davidson had dropped into five feet of water through the ice. From there on the men fought a night-mare battle to break a channel equipped only with a garden hoe and 1 inch pipe. When the cries of the weakening victims became more frantic, Davidson beat at the ice from the boat's prow with the hose and with his feet, receiving many painful bruises and contusions from ankle to knee on both legs.

At the same time Sweetland, joined by Cliff Walstrom of Oak Grove, took a second boat, and equipped with a shovel and an axe, began the ice-breaking course across the lake.

Ladder Won't Reach Victims

As the crowd grew on the north bank Fireman Nott, assisted by Dave Beeson, were trying to get the 25 ft. ladder to Mr. Daley. Warren Nott went out on the sagging ice pushing the ladder before him. When Mr. Daley grabbed the ladder's welcome rungs, the combined weight began to break the ice the full length of the ladder and Nott stepped back leaving the ladder to the nearly completely exhausted Daley. A few feet from the ladder the ice crumpled under Nott and for perhaps five anguished minutes he thrashed about in the ice clogged water trying to keep afloat.

Frantic Rescue Effort Fails

Fireman Beeson and young Westcott threw ropes to within Nott's grasp but he had gone down two or three times and was apparently either blinded or too weak to grasp them. Police Officer Bob Mathis, who arrived just as Nott sunk, went into the water with a rope tied about his waist to try to reach Nott but was unable to grab him under the ice. He was pulled from the water in a state of severe shock.

Davidson and Burns broke through to the father first and pulled him almost



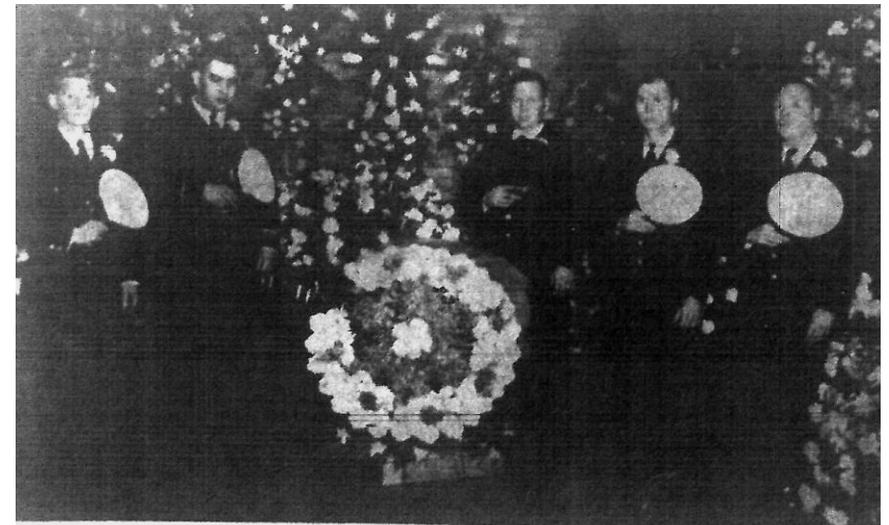
Warren Nott

unconscious and rigid into their tiny craft, and then shoved the toboggan-sled to where the son could grab it. The lad, in spite of being almost paralyzed by his 40 minute ordeal in the water and ice, was able to grab the sled rope and was hauled aboard the boat by Davidson. The rescue boat was pushed from behind by the Sweetland-Walstrom boat and pulled ashore by a rope thrown out by Beeson to the safety of the water's edge. The Daley father and son were rushed to the hospital.

A long fireman's pike was then thrown out to the second boat and within seconds Sweetland and Walstrom had located Fireman Nott in about ten feet of water. Nott's hat and cigarettes, floating on the surface, were grim markers of the spot where he finally sank.

Nott was quickly taken ashore, where firemen went to work to revive him with a resuscitator and manual artificial respiration. Physicians were summoned and Dr. Eugene Maire aided fireman and others for an hour on the lake bank. The grim and futile task lasted another hour on the floor of the nearby Kerr home. Warren Nott was pronounced dead at 3:30.

The Daley's and Officer Mathis were taken to the hospital for emergency treatment for shock and exposure and were released on Monday morning.



FELLOW FIREMEN SERVED as casket bearers for their hero-member Warren Nott at final rites Wednesday. Pictured are Captain Albert Jones, Captain Bernard Muffenbier, Captain David Beeson, Captain George Pickett and Captain Vern Leverett. Captain Jack Spencer does not show. (Milwaukee Review photo.) (See Story on Page 2)